

of the compound is phenyl-methyl-acetone, which being rather cumbersome has been replaced by the name *hypnone*, on account of its therapeutic use. From experiments made by Popof and others it appears the compound undergoes a decomposition, resulting in the formation of carbonic and benzoic acids, and is eventually eliminated by the kidneys in the form of hippurates.

It is a liquid at 20° C., and its boiling point is 198°. It has a specific gravity of 1015 to 1032; is not soluble in water, and has an odor resembling cherry-laurel. Its formula is $C_8 H_5 Co CH_3$. It was discovered by Friedel in 1857. The dose for an adult is from three to five drops, and is best administered in a little glycerine in a capsule. It produces profound slumber, and is said to be superior to chloral or paraldehyde in the insomnia of alcoholism. It was given to nine patients for fifteen days without producing any symptoms of intolerance. Owing to the elimination of acetone by the lungs, the breath became offensive. One advantage of the new drug is the small dose necessary to produce sleep.

THE COCAINE HABIT.—From Chicago comes a note of warning as to the abuse of cocaine. Dr. Bradley, a prominent physician had been addicted to the use of the drug in excess, and in a few months became a mental and physical wreck, and at the same time had injured the health of his wife and five children, some of them seriously. It appears to be more fascinating than alcohol, opium, chloral, etc., and the victim seems even more helpless to throw off its yoke. Several physicians have testified to its baneful influence, stating that it works ruin much more rapidly even than that *bête noir*, morphia. Cases of poisoning by the drug are noticed, in which recovery took place under the action of stimulants and digitalis. The habit has been formed in several instances under the direction of physicians, who, being desirous of breaking off some other habit, substituted a much worse one.

RHEUMATISM IN VINEGAR MANUFACTURE.—Mr. Robson calls attention (*British Medical Journal*) to the fact that persons exposed to the fumes of vinegar are more subject to rheumatic affections than others. Acute rheumatism, rheumatic gout, lumbago and tonsillitis form the majority of cases

of disease among the workmen employed at the vinegar brewery, of which Mr. Robson has medical charge. It is generally accepted by the workmen themselves that the vapors to which they are exposed cause these affections. Mr. Robson's theory is that the elimination of effete material by the skin is interfered with by the action of the acetic acid, which checks free perspiration. He further suggests that the acetic acid may, when introduced into the system, be changed by a chemical process into lactic acid.

THE LIGATURE IN OVARIOTOMY.—Dr. Lawson Tait, writing to the *British Med. Journal*, Nov. '85 expresses his preference for ligation of the pedicle in ovariectomy. Dr. Keith, of Edinburgh, prefers the cautery, which he calls "the only perfect method of dealing with the pedicle, for by it all risk of after-bleeding is avoided." Dr. Tait mentions the fact that he has lately performed his one hundred and thirty-second operation for cystoma since January 1st., 1884, without a single death. In ligating, he uses the Staffordshire knot, and states that his only case of after-bleeding was due to his not using that knot.

PERMANGANATE OF POTASH IN AMENORRHOEA.—This drug in grain doses three times a day will be found useful in cases where the flow is too small in amount, or where it is delayed. Ringer states that it has been known to establish the function even after the lapse of two years. Dr. Döring, of Chicago, in a report as to its efficacy, states that to be of use it must be given in considerably larger doses, two to four grains thrice daily midway between meals, but that in such case it deranges the stomach. He also advocates the use of large draughts of mineral water to be taken after the permanganate. Dr. Döring's larger dose should be taken in capsules. Mr. Ringer prescribes it as follows:

R Permanganate of Potash, 1 gr.
Kaolin,
Petroleum Cerate, of equal parts
q s., ft. pil, 1.

Sig. One three times a day.

MIDWIFERY PRACTICE AFTER EXPOSURE TO SEPSIS.—The majority of competent observers no longer claim that it is necessary to quit attendance upon cases of labor after exposure to septic poison.